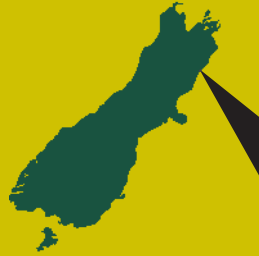


Become a member of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust and you'll help us keep Fyffe House and many other heritage places, alive!

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Contact our Membership Services on freephone 0800 80 20 10. You can also enrol online at [www.historic.org.nz](http://www.historic.org.nz)



New Zealand  
**Historic Places Trust** *Pouhere Taonga*

# FYFFE HOUSE



*...Foundations of a Town*



## Opening Hours

October - April: Every day 10am to 6pm

May - September: 10am to 4pm

(closed Tuesday and Wednesday)

## Contact Us

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*A link to Kaikoura's whaling past, Fyffe House is the town's oldest surviving building. But the site's significance is more than simply as a house site – it encompasses many aspects of human history in the South Island, including moa hunting, kumara gardening, whaling, fishing, farming, port activities, family life and tourism. Today Fyffe House's setting is little altered from the past, looking across the sea from Avoca Point to the beautiful Seaward Kaikoura mountains.*



## The House

Fyffe House began as part of the Waiopuka whaling station, founded in 1842 by Robert Fyfe. Originally a two-roomed cooper's cottage, it was extended in about 1860. It was built of native timbers with lath and plaster interior and mud and straw insulation. The house was first painted with a mixture of vegetable oils with red and white lead, which gave it the pink hue it has kept ever since.

An unusual feature that identifies the house with Kaikoura's whaling days is the large whale vertebrae, used as piles on one wing of the house.

The last owner of the house George Low bequeathed it to the New Zealand Historic Places Trust in 1980. Fyffe House is registered as a Category I historic place.



## History

The area around Fyffe House is rich in archaeological artefacts and evidence suggests that the site has been inhabited for up to 850 years.

Surrounding Fyffe House are the remains of extensive Maori settlements. The area readily supported a burgeoning population. There was fresh water from the stream, good soil for kumara and a protected beach from which they could launch their waka.

The Kaikoura Peninsula first attracted Europeans as a convenient spot from which to sight and catch whales. In 1842, Kaikoura's first European settler Robert Fyfe, set up a shore-based whaling station in what is now Fyffe Cove.

Visit Fyffe House, and

### Reflect...

on the environment and the people that lived here, Maori and European

### Examine....

the unique whale vertebrae piles

### Learn...

the story of whaling and the people connected with it.

### Take time...

to enjoy, and experience this beautiful part of the world and its history.

